- Manpower resources in these project areas have been increased by creating 118 units in the region along with 5 new task forces and 9 road construction companies.
- Additional recruitment of manpower with BRO is also being made through UPSC and General Reserve Engineering Force Centre.

Extortion activities carried out by militant outfits in North East

*295 SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the extortion activities carried out by militants/terrorists in the north eastern region as a result of which there is draining out of national exchequer meant for the development of north eastern region;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to stop this pilferage of national funds meant for development of States; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government on the basis of investigation by National Investigation Agency so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Development funds under various programmes are released to the State Governments concerned, who are responsible for implementation. Some inputs indicate that militant groups are resorting to extortion and siphoning of funds of some of the developmental schemes.

Whenever specific cases in respect of such activities are reported, cases are registered and other counter-measures and action, as necessary, are taken. Concerted efforts are being made by the State Governments in the region to counter the activities of the groups and misguided elements, who have been indulging in violence and extortion etc., and to create an atmosphere of peace and normalcy. The Central Government is supplementing their efforts through various measures such as deployment of additional Central Security Forces for carrying out intensive counter insurgency operations and providing security for vulnerable installations and projects, based on threat assessments; sharing of intelligence; financial assistance for strengthening of the local Police Forces and intelligence agencies under the Police Modernization Scheme; assistance for strengthening various aspects of security apparatus and other aspects of anti-militancy operations by way of reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure; raising of additional Forces in the form of India Reserve Battalions; etc. The Central Government is maintaining close and continuous coordination with the State Governments in the region with a view to periodically review the situation and take further steps, as may be necessary.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has completed its investigations and submitted a charge sheet in the matter of siphoning of developmental funds meant for North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, Assam to the militant outfit Dima Halam Daogah (Joel faction).